

# Housing

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want to continue to lead an active life.  
"The time may come when we will need home care — like assisted living," she said. "It will be there."

The Kunczes, who have five children and seven grandchildren, will buy a three-bedroom house with a full basement and a two-car garage.

The new houses and apartments are designed for senior citizens. Barrier-free entrances, specially designed stairs, outlets, railings, lighting and carpeting will all add to the safety of the structures without taking away from their beauty.

"The interiors of these houses and apartments took two years of planning, just so they would be as safe and as easy to live in as possible," said Steve Faine, administrator of professional and support services for Botsford.

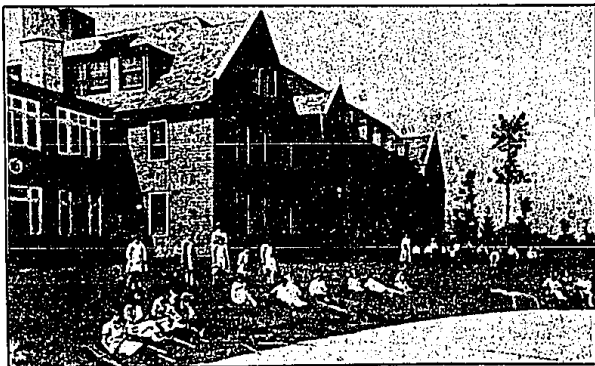
"The differences (from a normal structure) will be subtle, but they will be there."

### Cannot be restricted

Although the \$22 million development cannot legally be restricted to senior citizens, Mlynarek said she doesn't anticipate a rush by younger people to buy in the development. There are no restrictions and no association fees.

"These homes are really designed for more mature people," she said. "We don't foresee a family with younger children coming in to buy."

**School days:** Disabled children attended school at the Farmington Hills facility, as this photo from the Wayne State University Archives shows.



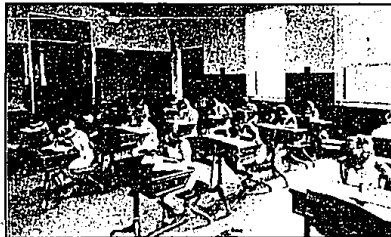
In the beginning: A photo from the Wayne State University Archives shows the Botsford Commons in the 1920s when it was known as the Michigan Hospital School for Crippled Children.

But, since many of the residents like the Kunczes will have children and grandchildren visiting, the wooded atmosphere will also be a tolerant one for both active and homebound senior citizens.

"There will be a lot of services geared toward seniors," Faine said. "There will be exercise classes and activities for the residents."

The new houses and apartments will be designed to fit in with both the surrounding area and the historic former Farmington Nursing Home.

The oldest of the buildings on the property at Tuck and Folsom roads was built in 1904.



That building was demolished because of its poor condition. But the annex, which now houses the extended care facility, was built with money donated as a birthday gift to his wife by then-mayor of Detroit James Couzens.

### Dates in the '20s

The facility was part of the Michigan Hospital School for Crippled Children in the 1920s.

Albert Kahn, a well-known Detroit architect of the period, designed the annex with its red brick, slate roofs and arched doorways. Tile inlays depicting children at play adorn the buildings' exterior.

The expansion allowed the

hospital/school to care for up to 180 children. Couzens' gift enabled Michigan Hospital School to become the center for orthopedic work in Michigan.

Dr. William E. Blodgett, an eminent orthopedist at the time, was on the school's faculty. He was known for his work in transplanting delicate cords and tendons and other orthopedic work to correct the deformities caused by children's diseases, mostly from infantile paralysis, better known as polio.

Slater Elizabeth Kenny, who became a noted physiotherapist, developed much of her expertise in the treatment of polio with the use of hydrotherapy at the facility.

The hospital shut down operations in the 1950s and the buildings were vacant until they were bought and renovated in the mid-1960s. It opened as the Farmington Nursing Home in 1969.

It was renamed Botsford Continuing Health Center in June of 1992 and has 179 residents.

The long-term care facility has also been home to some familiar residents.  
"We've had some people come back here who were here as children in the '20s," Mlynarek said.

# FCC cable ruling points to rate cut

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington-area cable subscribers could save money. How much, though, remains to be seen.

"We'll be watching like everyone else," said Tom Bjorklund, president and regional manager at MetroVision, which serves the Farmington area.

The Federal Communications Commission's ruling Thursday to regulate rates would cut monthly cable bills by up to 10 percent for some systems. The formula the FCC and local municipalities would use hasn't been announced, though.

The yet-to-be determined formula will be based on the pricing practices of cable systems that are in competitive markets. MetroVision is in a non-competitive situation.

The benchmark will be a table, factoring in the number of channels and subscribers.

"I don't think it will be that complicated," said Ian Martin, an adviser for the FCC in Washington, D.C.

For MetroVision's 33,000 subscribers in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi, the rate changes would cover basic, extended or full basic and installa-

tion, according to the FCC spokesman.

The full basic rate is \$19.95 a month for MetroVision subscribers. With 44 channels, the cost per channel works out to 45 cents.

Bjorklund said it's difficult to speculate on how the FCC decision will affect rates.

"Locally, our rates are just about the lowest in the area," Bjorklund said. "Nationally, we're on the lower end of the scale."

Bjorklund added a drastic cut, "ultimately would affect services."

The 10 percent reduction was the average rate difference between competitive and non-competitive systems, which was determined after the FCC conducted a survey last fall.

Results of the survey are not expected to be released until two weeks.

The FCC also called for rate reductions to be rolled back from prices in effect as of Sept. 30, 1992. The purpose is to eliminate any "unwarranted" increases since the 1992 Cable Act went into effect.

MetroVision raised basic rates \$1.60 Feb. 1.

## Meeting set on gardens upkeep

A meeting of those involved in the maintenance of the gardens at the Farmington Historical Museum will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 7, at the museum, 33805 Grand River, Farmington.

Betti Pool of Farmington Hills will supervise and coordinate the gardening on the museum grounds this year.

An organizational meeting of

the Garden Auxiliary (volunteers) will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 21, at the museum. For more information about gardening at the museum, call Pool at 442-2742.

Volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will do a spring clean-up at the museum on Wednesday, April 28. This marks the 12th year that volunteers have done the clean-up.

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